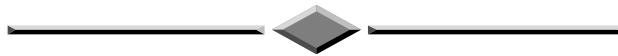


CHARTER for the ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE of the DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



PURPOSE

The purpose of the Laboratory Accreditation Committee is to be a Topical Committee that promotes the integrity and uniformity of laboratory accreditation and accreditation Programs for DOE laboratories by:

Identifying and facilitating resolution of laboratory accreditation issues for DOE,

Sharing laboratory accreditation information, resources, and practices, and

Enhancing the role and awareness of laboratory accreditation in all DOE Programs and Projects.

VALUE STATEMENT

The Laboratory Accreditation Committee will promote the use and/or development of laboratory accreditation and Laboratory Accreditation Programs. The Committee will strive to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of laboratory accreditation services by providing for DOE a network for information sharing.

OBJECTIVES

1. Function as the DOE focal point for laboratory accreditation issues and laboratory accreditation standards and as the coordinating activity for accreditation standards for the DOE/TSPO.
2. Serve as an advisory group for the development and review of DOE Laboratory Accreditation directives.

3. Interface with non-DOE standards developing bodies on activities that impact DOE environment, safety, and health directives requiring accreditation support.
4. Maintain a partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the agency charged with coordination of laboratory accreditation activities, by Public Law PL 104-113.
5. Promote DOE-wide “best” laboratory accreditation practices that are responsive to programmatic needs and objectives.
6. Promote the idea that laboratory accreditation issues be considered early in program development.
7. Establish and maintain liaison with other DOE topical committees having mutual interests.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the DOE Laboratory Accreditation Committee is open to all DOE and DOE Contractors and their subcontractors.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The DOE Laboratory Accreditation Committee will be governed by an elected Steering Committee consisting of up to eleven members. A secretariat will be selected to coordinate the Steering committee activities.

SPONSORSHIP

The DOE Laboratory Accreditation Committee, formed in August 1997, is a standing topical standards committee sponsored by the DOE Technical Standards Program. The following principles will govern the operation:

Openness: Participation in the committee standards development process will be open to all persons who are directly and materially affected by the activity in question.

Balance of Interests: Any standards development activities undertaken by the committee will be comprised of representatives of all categories of interest that relate to the subject matter.

Due Process: The committee will ensure that any individual or organization within DOE who believes that an action or inaction of the committee causes unreasonable hardship or potential harm is provided the opportunity to have a fair hearing of their concerns.

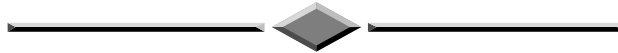
Reporting: The Steering Committee will report on Laboratory Accreditation Committee activities to the DOE Technical Standards Program Office on a regular basis.

MEETINGS

The DOE Laboratory Accreditation Committee normally meets once a year. The meeting will normally be hosted by a DOE Facility.

SUNSET REVIEW CLAUSE

An evaluation will be made by December 31, 2001, regarding the continued usefulness of the Accreditation Committee. With the concurrence of the Department of Energy Technical Standards Program Office, the charter may be renewed for an additional three (3) or four (4) year period.



This Charter was adopted by the DOE Laboratory Accreditation Committee on September 24, 1998.

Approved by DOE Technical Standards Program Office

_____(date)_____

Richard J. Serbu, TSP Manager

Official Charter of the Accreditation Topical Committee (AC) of the Department of Energy
Adopted by the general membership of the AC at the First Annual Meeting of the AC at NIST,
September 23, 1998.